

LORETTA YOUNG

i 1913 - 2000

i Hollywood Actress

i “The Loretta Young Show” on television for 10 years

Loretta Young was a native of Salt Lake City, Utah. At a young age she developed an interest in acting and pursued it with a passion. When she was thirteen she tried out for a role that was meant for her sister, Polly Ann. The film director told Loretta (whose real name was Gretchen) that she was not the one for the part. He reasoned that Loretta was too young, too awkward and too inexperienced. However, Loretta was persistent and the director finally gave her a screen test. She was chosen to act in a movie titled, “Naughty, But Nice” starring Colleen Moore. By the time Loretta was fifteen she was on her way to Hollywood fame.

Loretta was advised that she did not have the “glamorous Hollywood look.” She was too thin, her eyes were too big, her hair was the wrong color and her voice was unpleasant. None of this deterred her determination to succeed in movies. She put on some weight, changed her hair color and took voice lessons. Through hard work and tenacity, Loretta Young became one of the most popular stars in Hollywood during the motion-picture-making evolution. Throughout her career she appeared opposite leading men such as Lon Chaney, John Barrymore, Clark Gable, James Cagney, Spencer Tracy, Cary Grant and Robert Mitchum. She was nominated for seven Emmy’s and won three.

During World War II, Loretta wanted to act in war movies. She was again told that she could not do such roles and that “those kinds of pictures” were not her kind of movie. She stunned audiences when she appeared in “China,” a drama of deadly guerilla fighting against the Japanese. The lovely Loretta Young portrayed her role amid mud and rubble and received excellent reviews that silenced her critics.

From 1953 to 1963 Loretta appeared in more than 300 episodes of “The Loretta Young Show.” She retired in 1963 and began to occupy her time with charity work. She also launched a line of beauty products.

Loretta Young died at the age of 87 of ovarian cancer. Throughout her life she was truly a “leading lady.”